

Future Directions in Feminist Phenomenology  
The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario  
May 23-25, 2013  
David Chu International Centre, WSS 2130

Dr. Helen Fielding, Western  
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### **Future Directions and Feminist Phenomenology**

#### **ABSTRACT**

What does it mean to think about future directions phenomenologically and from a feminist perspective? We cannot know what the future is because it is not given in advance. It is a realm of possibilities, of potentialities. What is given is the milieu, the situation or the structure, the phenomenon out of which some of the myriad possibilities that belong to the present might emerge. I want to show how this fullness of the present has feminist potential in its promise of change, through considering the recent cases of two young women who committed suicide following assault, cyberbullying and harassment. These deaths mark the closing of a future, the collapse of private and public worlds, and yet also provide an event that has significance for our understanding of a feminist temporality, potentiality and change?